



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

P.O. BOX 2360
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96804

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

May 7, 2019

Via Email Only: Information.EIH@gmail.com

Dear [REDACTED]:

I am very disappointed to hear that you have launched a petition to try to acquire financial data from the Hawaii Department of Education ("HIDOE"). We have been working with you and the Education Institute of Hawaii ("EIH") in good faith and have provided you numerous data files with budget, revenue, expenditure, audit, weighted student formula and fiscal data to address your requests. As we have stated before, we cannot provide the confidential types of data you are requesting, such as individual salaries, medical payments, and other personally identifiable information.

I have received reports that you have also contacted my Assistant Superintendents and other staff demanding this data, stating that if you did not receive it immediately, that you would launch a public petition and announce your perceived grievances to the media. This is not a constructive means to reach your goals.

The data you requested will be included in a future financial management system to meet the requirements of the Every Student Succeeds Act in 2020. HIDOE has already posted a Request for Information for this project and a link to details was provided to you. Rather than work through established procurement procedures, you instead proposed that if HIDOE provides you the data immediately, that EIH can complete this system at no cost.

HIDOE is committed to transparency and to providing information to our school communities and stakeholders in an easily understood format, but it cannot provide a third-party organization with confidential financial data based on the simple premise of getting a free product. To do so would be a wildly irresponsible betrayal of our basic duties to Hawaii's taxpayers and to our employees by circumventing state procurement laws and procedures.

If EIH wishes to develop a financial management system in cooperation with HIDOE, it must bid on the project like other interested parties and comply with the project requirements, timetables, liabilities and deliverables. EIH cannot force its way ahead of the line by demanding data through threats of petitions and confrontation. If you intend to be a true partner of education worthy of your stated goals, we hope you will re-examine your current path and work with us in good faith.

Sincerely,

A blue ink signature of Dr. Christina M. Kishimoto, written in a cursive style.

Dr. Christina M. Kishimoto
Superintendent

CMK:di

AN AFFIRMATIVE ACTION AND EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER